1	2	3	4
14. Tamil Nadu	638	1504	2465
15. Uttar Pradesh	1580	3315	6105
16. West Bengal	959	1597	3450
17. Himachal Pradesh	213	325	774
18. Manipur	133	194	469
19. Meghalaya	92	134	382
20. Nagaland	140	241	527
21. Sikkim	..	37	104
22. Tripura	138	200	561
TOTAL:	11087	20843	39452

Declaration of Andaman and Nicobar Island a free port

1316. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since taken a decision in regard to the declaration of Andaman and Nicobar Island as a free port;

(b) whether it is a fact that Non-Resident Indians have shown interest in setting up industries there if it is declared a Free port; and

(c) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Some suggestions have been received from Non-Resident Indians amongst others for the development of a Free Port in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(c) The proposal requires to be evaluated indepth having regard to various issues. It would be difficult to indicate at this stage when the exercises in this regard would be completed.

Reduction in non-development expenditure

1317. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India has suggested a reduction in non-development expenditure from the current level of Rs. 34,116 crores to Rs. 27,000 crores a year to garner additional resources for the Seventh Plan; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government to this suggestion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) In a background paper prepared by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India for one of its workshops it has been suggested that non-developmental expenditure may be reduced by reducing food and fertilizer subsidies and by raising issue prices of foodgrains and fertilizers.

(b) It is always Government's endeavour to keep down the subsidies to the minimum level possible. However, in the context of the current drought situation, the suggestion that food grain and fertilizer subsidy should be reduced by raising prices is not feasible. These subsidies

are evaluated keeping in view the overall interest of Farming and poor class.

'Work to Rule' agitation by S.B.I. employees

1318. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is 'Work to rule' agitation by the employees of the State Bank of India resulting in severe disruption of clearing of cheques;

(b) what are the reasons for the agitation by the employees; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to settle the dispute with the employees and restore normalcy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) There is no 'work to rule' agitation by the employees of State Bank of India at present. However, some employees of the bank had resorted to work to rule as a part of their agitation against alleged political interference in the day to day working of the bank and in support of their demands to improve recruitment for better customer service, to provide adequate security at all offices of the bank, and to protect the existing trade minor rights and the industrial relation policy of the bank. The dispute has since been resolved amicably through conciliation.

Rehabilitation of persons displaced by Narmada Sagar Project

1319. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over a million people facing economic and social disruption with their displacement by the Narmada Sagar Project have threatened agitation since the State Governments concerned are backing out from the promises made to rehabilitate them and that the Chairman of the Narmada Water Development Corporation has resigned;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that recent studies by experts have raised doubts about the projected benefits of some major projects including the Narmada Sagar Project; and

(d) if so, whether Government have made any reassessment of the giant scheme in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) to (d) About 1.3 lakh persons are likely to be affected by Narmada Sagar (renamed as Indira Sagar) Project. A Sub-Group under the Narmada Control Authority is overseeing the rehabilitation work being implemented by the States. The Government of Madhya Pradesh have appointed another senior administrator as Chairman, Narmada Valley Development Authority. No shortfall in the projected benefits is anticipated.

Cazri Scientists' Report on flow of buried ancient river Saraswati below Rajasthan Desert

1320. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the Scientists of the Central Arid Zone Research Institute the buried ancient river Saraswati flows through a sub-terranean channel below the deserts of Rajasthan and can provide a solution to the region's water problem;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Central Government propose to exploit the buried water channels of river Saraswati; if so, what steps have been taken/are proposed to be taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) to (c) The Central Arid Zone Re-